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This is a copy of the actual Steigerwalt to Rice letter that details  
Hays errors along with Steigerwalt's "DISCOVERY" of the Hays 59 (S-37)  
- Part of Lot #5B4 of the FEB 12, 2017 GOLDBERG'S Sale.  
- One of the "Naffziger lots"

Lancaster 11-18-1900

Geo W. Rice:-

I note from copy of  
"Numismatist" received to-day that  
you intend to commence an  
article on varieties of US Cents.  
Since purchasing the Hays' collection  
last Spring I have become much  
interested in the subject of the  
1794 cents and in what little time  
I have been able to devote to the  
matter I have made some interesting  
discoveries that I will be pleased to  
place at your disposal that errors  
by both Morris & Hays may not be  
perpetuated in a new description.  
Hays' collection lacked his #40 which  
however I supplied by trading with  
a prominent collector and now have

the collection complete with all known varieties. Hays did not have his #53 but a careful investigation shows that it is in none of the large collections and I am forced to the conclusion it does not exist. Hays followed Maris' description without having the piece and it is only a combination of dies. Hays 55 has no Maris equivalent and if you will compare his #52 & #55 obverses you will note how easily Maris could make the mistake particularly if he had a worn specimen of #65 which is quite rare. Hays had in addition two pieces he had not bought when his work was published - one of these I traded him and afterwards secured another specimen (improperly described) at the Bownard sale - it is undoubtedly Maris #48 which Hays in his work says he had never seen. The other he bought at a Phila sale for #41 and was unknown



previously to Mairis or Hays. I have since  
 seen (recently) another specimen of it  
 in a prominent collection. These  
 two varieties, of which but two  
 specimens each are at present  
 definitely known, have both the  
 reverse of Hays 7-9-10-11 making  
 now 6 obverses combining into that  
 one reverse. Last Spring I found in  
 my own stock an entirely new  
 variety. I had bought the piece  
 as a "Distant 1" Hays 44 at the Bowman  
 sale and catalogued it thus.  
 Heaton ordered it but returned  
 it as improperly described. I then  
 examined it and later sent it  
 to Dr. Hall for examination and  
 confirmation of being a new variety.  
 The obverse is entirely new and though  
 resembling the "Distant 1" has different  
 position of legend, etc - its reverse is  
 that of Hays 31-41 (this duplication  
 of reverses is an error of Hays - his  
 31 & 41 reverses being identical).

Phelps, whom Dr Hall considers the best student of 1794 cents and superior to Hays, in a letter written in reply to one of inquiry regarding Hays 38 mentions a number of Dr. Maris' earlier mistakes which Hays later on corrected but includes in this connection Hays 38. Dr Maris made in his estimation an error in describing his #27 <sup>or same as 26</sup> into worse same as his #29 or equivalent to Hays 37 into worse Hays 39 - This kept collectors hunting for a non-existent combination. Hays thought he had solved it into his #38 and goes into a lengthy comparison with his #37 but ignores comparison with his #39 except regarding the pointing of the terminal locks to figure 1 of date. An examination of the #38 in Hays' collection shows it to be an undoubted #39 - a choice specimen and far superior to the one (#38) on Hays' plate. A collector hunting for a variety might be deceived as to terminal locks in a poor piece as on the Hays' plate particularly if he was ~~hunting~~ comparing with #37 instead of <sup>at different times</sup> #39. Phelps had several in his collection as #38 but



rejected them in succession as he became  
 convinced they were each and every one  
 #39 and thus the combination of  
 dies did not exist. Hays 38 + 53  
 can be crossed off as non-existent  
 while a Hays 57 equivalent to Maris 48  
 can be added as also new Hays Nos  
 58 + 59. Dropping the two mentioned  
 above there are now 57 Nos and I  
 have them all many of them are  
 in very superior condition and I shall  
 for the present, at least, I suppose  
 keep them as a private collection  
 and endeavor to secure the very best  
 known of each variety. As I am  
 strongly of the idea of getting clear  
 of nearly completely closing out my  
 stock I may some time in the  
 future dispose of the collection  
 and if so will let you have first  
 chance at it. I am

Yours truly  
 Chas. Stingerwalt  
 130 E. King St Lancaster, Pa